

I respond to space and places

Geoffrey James – Clip 16

I really respond to space and places and how places feel. And the moment you start dealing with the human figure in the landscape it becomes another type. It becomes anecdotal and I'm not interested in anecdote. Sometimes the absence of people can denote loss or social problems,... or strangely, I mean ...looking back on it, I've photographed the parks of Frederick Law Olmsted which are places of public amusement, recreation, and there are very few people in the pictures. But I think it's significant that I was able to photograph those spaces without people in them. That says something about use. Obviously if you go into Central Park on the 4th of July, or Prospect Park in Brooklyn, you're going to have 10,000 people barbequing. But most times of the day, most times of the year, they're not used that much and I think that that denotes a problem in America with them, even with the notion of public space. This was not a popular position to take. The American critics did not like that at all.